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PATENT APPLICATION
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WW-5562

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION OF)
HARTWIG SCHLESIGER ET AL) GROUP ART UNIT: 1614
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/785,905) EXAMINER: Dwayne C. Jones
FILED: February 16, 2001)
TITLE: A PROCESS FOR PRODUCING)
PARTICULATE, WATER-SOLUBLE)
CELLULOSE DERIVATIVES USING)
A SUPERHEATED GAS MIXTURE)
CONTAINING STEAM)

REPLY BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply Brief is submitted in response to the Examiner's Answer dated January 17, 2006.

As Indicated in the Brief, the first two steps of the presently claimed invention require that i) a feed composition be formed from a cellulose derivative and water and ii) the feed composition then be contacted with a superheated gas mixture in a high rotational speed gas jet impact mill. The superheated gas mixture is either a) a superheated gaseous mixture of steam and an inert gas or b) a superheated gas mixture of steam and air.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an enveloped addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 March 8, 2006
Date

Joseph C. Gil, Reg. No. 26,602

Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Representative

Signature

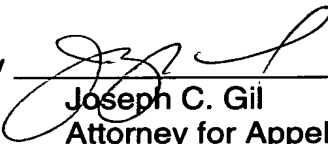
March 8, 2006

Date

Appellants emphasize that neither of the references cited by the Examiner even remotely suggest the use of a superheated gas mixture that can be either a) a superheated gaseous mixture of steam and an inert gas or b) a superheated gas mixture of steam and air. WO 98/31710 suggests the use of a) superheated steam or b) a mixture of superheated steam and a solvent. The solvents described by the reference as being useful (see page 7, lines 1 through 7) are water and organic solvents. Nowhere does the reference even remotely suggest that a superheated gas mixture of i) steam and an inert gas or ii) steam and air could or should be used.

For the reasons set forth in the Brief and those contained herein, it is submitted that the rejection is in error and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joseph C. Gil
Attorney for Appellants
Reg. No. 26,602

Bayer MaterialScience LLC
100 Bayer Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205-9741
(412) 777-3813
FACSIMILE PHONE NUMBER:
(412) 777-3902
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